Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

At-cost electric service
Locally governed
Return excess revenue
Community builders

Electric cooperatives are community-focused organizations that work to efficiently deliver affordable and reliable electricity to consumer-members of the co-op. They operate for the benefit of people, not investors.
Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

Nearly 900 electric co-ops serve 1 in 8 U.S. residents in rural and exurban communities alike

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Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

Serve

93% of America’s persistent poverty counties

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Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

Over 100 electric co-ops are providing broadband service to their members

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Electricity is first generated by a power source and delivered over high-voltage transmission lines, often by generation and transmission cooperatives. Then voltage is reduced for delivery by distribution cooperatives to homes, businesses and farms.
Electric Cooperative Electricity Basics

RETAIL FUEL MIX 2009
- 56% Coal
- 13% Renewables
- 17% Nuclear
- 12% Natural Gas
- 1% Oil, Other & Unknown

RETAIL FUEL MIX 2016
- 41% Coal
- 17% Renewables
- 15% Nuclear
- 26% Natural Gas
- 1% Oil, Other & Unknown

(Chart adds up to 99% due to rounding)

Source: NRECA Research

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Electric Cooperative Policy Issues

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Electric Cooperative Policy Issues

- Energy policy
- Environment
- Critical infrastructure
- Grid resilience
Electric Cooperative Policy Issues

- Rural development
- Telecom/broadband
- Employee/retiree benefits
- Tax policy

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Electric Cooperative Innovation

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Electric Cooperative Innovation

Renewable energy

Since 2010, co-op non-hydro renewable energy capacity has increased 130% — from 4 gigawatts to 9.2 gigawatts. More than 90 percent of electric co-ops provide electricity generated by renewable energy resources.
Distributed energy resources

Co-ops are implementing microgrids, community solar and other distributed energy programs that make economic sense for their members.
Energy efficiency

Energy conservation and efficiency improvement reduce the need for electricity infrastructure and lower the cost of energy to consumer-members.
Electric co-ops are a vital part of the solution to bridge the digital divide and modernize rural communities.
Beneficial electrification

Electrifying the economy provides far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. Co-ops are leading the transition to beneficial electrification.
Electric Cooperatives
Empowering Communities Worldwide

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Electric Cooperatives Empowering Communities Worldwide

NRECA International

Powering communities and hope by creating 250 rural utilities across the globe.

Serving 160 million people in 43 countries

4x the number of U.S. rural co-op connections.

300 U.S. electric cooperatives are empowering international communities with passion and concern for community

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Electric Cooperative
Policy Resources

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Electric Cooperative Policy Resources

- Experts on energy, technology, markets and rural development
- Fact sheets on policy issues
- White papers on energy, broadband and rural development
Electric Cooperative Policy Resources

Data on nearly 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states

Reports on cooperative economic benefits = $87 billion to U.S. GDP.